

# Worksession

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	6
<b>Meeting Date</b>	November 28, 2005
<b>Prepared By</b>	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
<b>Reviewed By</b>	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Review of the 2005 City Election Process
<b>Background</b>	<p>In July, the Council opted out of using the Diebold touchscreen machines for the 2005 City Election and directed that the election be conducted using paper ballots. The City Clerk invited Valerie Dant (who would serve as Chief Election Judge), Robbi Kimball, and Rob Ritchie (Executive Director of FairVote, The Center for Voting and Democracy) to assist with developing procedures for the election. Valerie Dant will be present at the Council worksession on November 28.</p> <p>For this election, Council authorized an increase in the pay for election judges, from \$60 to \$135, to better compensate the judges for their time and to ensure that a sufficient number of people would apply to serve as judges. The pay for the Chief Judge was raised to \$175. Twenty-five judges were appointed by Council; 23 served on election day.</p> <p>As the Council considers whether to amend the Charter to change to Instant Runoff Voting in future elections, and how to conduct future elections generally, staff recommends that Council establish an Elections Board to advise Council and work with the City Clerk on planning and conducting elections. The Elections Board could also be charged to advise and assist with voter registration, outreach, and education of non-citizen and non-English speaking voters.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	<p><b>Section 607 Conduct of Elections Generally</b></p> <p>(a) The Council, by ordinance, shall provide for said elections; shall designate in said ordinance a convenient polling place or places; shall appoint judges of election; shall designate the manner of holding said election; shall designate and provide the voting system to be used; and shall conduct said elections in accordance with the provisions of this section.</p> <p><b>Section 613 Regulation and Control by Council</b></p> <p>The Council has the power to provide by ordinance in every respect not covered by the provisions of this charter for the conduct of registration, nomination, and City elections and for the prevention of fraud in connection therewith, and for a recount of ballots in case of doubt or fraud. The Council further has the power to create and appoint an Elections Board and to specify the functions and duties of an Elections Board. The Election Board's functions may include enforcing the City's elections laws and resolving complaints, disputes, and challenges on election matters. Ordinances heretofore adopted by the Council pertaining to election matters shall remain in force and effect until repealed or amended by the Council but only as to such provisions as are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article.</p>

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<p>Election expenses for 2003 totaled \$8,183.92.</p> <p>Election expenses for 2005 are expected to be approximately \$9,500. This amount includes \$900 for a one-time purchase of collapsible ballot boxes and \$3145 for payment to the election judges. Other expenses include publication of legal notices, translation services, catering for judges on election day, employee overtime, and supplies. Legal services fees are not included in this estimate, nor is the cost of printing the ballots in-house.</p> <p>Future fiscal impact will depend upon 1) the Council's direction as to how to conduct elections, 2) the Council's decision on establishment of an Elections Board (compensated or uncompensated), and 3) what level of voter education and outreach is to be conducted.</p>
<b>Attachments</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Consider establishing an Elections Board.
<b>Special Consideration</b>	If the Council intends to amend the City Charter and adopt the use of Instant Runoff Voting for future elections, the Charter Amendment process and subsequent planning for the 2007 election should begin soon.